

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
SCHMAUS et al.) Applications
)
)
Serial No. Not Assigned)
)
)
Filed:)
)
For: DISTILLATION OF STYRENE)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the attached sheets.

R E M A R K S

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency. No new matter has been added. A clean copy of the claims is attached.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF


Herbert B. Keil
Reg. No. 18,967

1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202)659-0100

CLAIMS -CLEAN VERSION - 0Z 0050/51631

3. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein 4-tert-butylcatechol is fed to the distillation apparatus concurrently with the vinylaromatic monomer, the concentration of 4-tert-butylcatechol in the distillation bottoms being in the range of from 200 to 15,000 ppm based on the vinylaromatic monomer.
4. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the vacuum distillation is carried out at temperatures ranging from 40° to 125°C.
5. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered into the distillation bottoms through a gas spray.
6. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered in on the suction side of a circulating pump mounted upstream of the distillation assembly.
7. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the oxygen is fed in at a rate of from 0.01 to 0.5 wt%, based on the weight of vinylaromatic monomer.

CLAIMS - MARKED UP VERSION - OZ 0050/51631

3. A process as defined in claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein 4-tert-butylcatechol is fed to the distillation apparatus concurrently with the vinylaromatic monomer, the concentration of 4-tert-butylcatechol in the distillation bottoms being in the range of from 200 to 15,000 ppm based on the vinylaromatic monomer.
4. A process as defined in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the vacuum distillation is carried out at temperatures ranging from 40° to 125°C.
5. A process as defined in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered into the distillation bottoms through a gas spray.
6. A process as defined in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered in on the suction side of a circulating pump mounted upstream of the distillation assembly.
7. A process as defined in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the oxygen is fed in at a rate of from 0.01 to 0.5 wt%, based on the weight of vinylaromatic monomer.

RECEIVED
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
JULY 10 2008

CURRENT CLAIMS - OZ 0050/51631

1. A process for the distillation of vinylaromatic monomers in the presence of 4-tert-butylcatechol (TBC) and oxygen, wherein no aromatic nitro or amino compound is present in any effective amount.
2. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the vinylaromatic monomer used is styrene.
3. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein 4-tert-butylcatechol is fed to the distillation apparatus concurrently with the vinylaromatic monomer, the concentration of 4-tert-butylcatechol in the distillation bottoms being in the range of from 200 to 15,000 ppm based on the vinylaromatic monomer.
4. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the vacuum distillation is carried out at temperatures ranging from 40° to 125°C.
5. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered into the distillation bottoms through a gas spray.
6. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is metered on the suction side of a circulating pump mounted upstream of the distillation assembly.
7. A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the oxygen is fed in at a rate of from 0.01 to 0.5 wt%, based on the weight of vinylaromatic monomer.